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## The FREE MARKET Myth explodes - again!

Do we need another Adolf Hitler who would soon "durchgreifen" and stop this plunder of national resources? That is his legacy: Say no to Kosher slaughter; say no to circumcision; say no to usury!

#### Banking crisis over, Iceland's economy thaws

Many see Iceland as offering a lesson to struggling European countries such as Greece and Spain By Mia Shanley



REUTERS updated 3 May 2012 11:31:21 AM ET

**GRINDAVIK, Iceland** — In this small Icelandic village, sailors are making double their pre-crisis pay, haddock sales to places like Boston and Brussels are booming and unemployment is almost zero - signs of this island's surprisingly rapid rise from the ashes of banking ruin.

While much of Europe wallows in recession, the economy of this volcanic island in the mid Atlantic is growing at a clip that has surprised many people, thanks to a currency fall - in which the crown lost almost half its value to the euro - an export and tourism boom as well as growing consumer confidence.

"This is probably one of our best years," said Arnthor Einarsson, a fisherman readying his boat for his next catch as seagulls circle huge piles of fishing nets on a rocky peninsula about one hour south of the capital Reykjavik.

Only a few years ago, a banking boom in which the sector's assets grew to 10 times the country's GDP lured many of Iceland's 320,000 population from traditional industries into the world of finance. Fisherman got into banking and sailors speculated on booming real estate.

Those heady days have gone. Gas-guzzling Land Rovers have been replaced with fuel-efficient Volkswagens, a sign perhaps of a more sober consumer mood in which economic growth is based on a steady expansion of exports rather than flash-inthe-pan speculation.

The wounds that sparked massive street protests against the financial elite are slowly healing. Even the then prime minister has been tried by a special court, closing one chapter.

Granted, there is still a long way to go, but many see Iceland as offering a lesson particularly to European countries such as Greece and Spain, stuck with shrinking economies and lacking the option of devaluing to boost their international competitiveness.

Iceland's GDP growth estimated at some 2.6 percent this year will outshine even powerhouses like Sweden.

"These are among the highest numbers in Europe," said Finance Minister Steingrimur Sigfusson. "Sometimes it is easier to turn a small boat around than a big ship."

Currency depreciation though is only part of the picture.

Capital controls, progressive taxes and a careful phasing-in of austerity measures were also key to getting the country back on track, bringing a more than 10 percent fiscal deficit back to a near balance.

Iceland also did what other parts of Europe haven't dared to do - let its banks go under. It took some of the cost itself but forced foreign creditors to take the biggest hit.

Lauded by some economists for taking unorthodox measures to fix its broken economy, others see it as a one-off example that would be hard to replicate.

"The lessons don't transfer directly because of the relative size of the old banks in relation to the economy. What we were left with was quite manageable," said Jon Bentsson, senior economist at Islandsbanki.

Back to basicsThree years after its near meltdown, Iceland looks healthy on many measures. It successfully finished an IMF bailout program and has already made one early repayment. It expects the sale of assets from failed bank Landsbanki to cover its \$5 billion in debts to Britain and the Netherlands.

In February, Iceland recovered its investment-grade rating from Fitch, which praised the country for restoring macroeconomic stability, adding to investment-grade ratings from Standard and Poor's and Moody's Investors Service.

Icelanders are getting work, going shopping and their house prices are rising again.

And while the penthouse of a gleaming new skyscraper in downtown Reykjavik sits empty, Icelanders are piling into a hip new restaurant on the ground floor called the Hamburger

Car sales doubled in the first quarter. Jon Olafsson, who runs an auto dealership on the outskirts of Reykjavik, expects to sell almost 1,000 cars this year, having sold less than 100 cars in 2009.

"This is a high volume day for us," he says, pointing at a shiny row of cars just rolled out on his lot. His customers are back en masse, hunting for leaner, greener cars, and he is recruiting staff to meet demand.

While signs point to recovery, many remain cautious about the future and bitter over the past.

Household debt exceeds 200 percent of GDP. The government must deal with the issue of capital controls, imposed after the crisis but which are seen by some economists as denting foreign investment confidence.

There is little trust in government three years after the fall of ex-Prime Minister Geir Haarde. Parliament has the support of only 10 percent of the public, polls show.

Pall Matthiasson, chief executive of mental health services at the National University Hospital of Iceland, flips through slides on his iPad showing the five stages of grief.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/47280153/ns/businessworld business/t/banking-crisis-over-icelands-economythaws/

#### **EDITORIAL**

## Rigged Rates, Rigged Markets

New York Times, Published: 2 July 2012

**Update:** After this editorial went to press, Barclays announced that its chief executive, Robert Diamond Jr. had resigned, effective immediately, and that Marcus Agius, who had resigned as chairman of Barclays on Monday, would become chairman again and lead the search for a new chief executive.

Marcus Agius, the chairman of Barclays, <u>resigned on Monday</u>, saying "the buck stops with me." His was the first departure since the British bank <u>agreed last week to pay \$450 million to settle</u> findings that, from 2005 to 2009, it had tried to rig benchmark interest rates to benefit its own bottom line.

Mr. Agius was right to go and the bank's chief executive, Robert Diamond Jr., should follow him out the door. But the investigations cannot stop there.

The rates in question — the London interbank offered rate, or Libor, and the Euro interbank offered rate, or Euribor — are used to determine the borrowing rates for consumers and companies, including some \$10 trillion in mortgages, student loans and credit cards. The rates are also linked to an estimated \$700 trillion market in derivatives, which banks buy and sell on a daily basis. If these rates are rigged, markets are rigged — against bank customers, like everyday borrowers, and against parties on the other side of a bank's derivatives deals, like pension funds.

Barclays is only one of more than a dozen big banks that provide information used to set the daily rate for Libor and Euribor. The settlement, struck with regulators in Washington and London and with the Department of Justice, indicates that the bank did not act alone. It shows that unnamed managers and traders of Barclays in London, New York and Tokyo colluded with or prevailed upon bank employees who

provide the benchmark data to make false reports. The aim was to bolster Barclays's trading positions and to aid or counteract other banks' attempts at manipulation.

The evidence, cited by the Justice Department — which Barclays agreed is "true and accurate" — is damning. "Always happy to help," one employee wrote in an email after being asked to submit false information. "If you know how to keep a secret, I'll bring you in on it," wrote a Barclays trader to a trader at another bank, referring to an attempt to align their strategies for mutual gain.

If that's not conspiracy and price-fixing, what is?

The Justice Department has left open the possibility of prosecuting officers or employees of Barclays. But it has agreed not to prosecute the bank itself, in part because Barclays was the first to cooperate in the investigation and has agreed to keep cooperating. Such an agreement makes sense only if that cooperation will allow prosecutors to nail other banks that have been involved in setting the rates, including potential cases against Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase and HSBC, and people who work there.

To date, the Justice Department has not distinguished itself in prosecuting major banks or their executives for conduct leading up to and during the financial crisis. But with Barclays now cooperating, the "Libor scandal" is another chance for government prosecutors to unmask and punish financial wrongdoing.

A version of this editorial appeared in print on July 3, 2012, on page A20 of the New York edition with the headline: Rigged Rates, Rigged Markets. http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/03/opinion/rigged-rates-rigged-markets.html? r=1

## **Robert Scheer: Crime of the Century**

Friday, 06 July 2012 12:45

Forget Bernie Madoff and Enron's Ken Lay—they were mere amateurs in financial crime. The current Libor interest rate scandal, involving hundreds of trillions in international derivatives trade, shows how the really big boys play. And these guys will most likely not do the time because their kind rewrites the law before committing the crime.

Modern international bankers form a class of thieves the likes of which the world has never before seen. Or, indeed, imagined. The scandal over Libor—short for London interbank offered rate—has resulted in a huge fine for Barclays Bank and threatens to ensnare some of the world's top financers. It reveals that behind the world's financial edifice lies a reeking cesspool of unprecedented corruption. The modern-day robber barons pillage with a destructive abandon totally

unfettered by law or conscience and on a scale that is almost impossible to comprehend.

How to explain a \$450 million settlement for one bank whose defense, in a plea bargain worked out with regulators in London and Washington, is that every institution in their elite financial circle was doing it? Not just Barclays but JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup and others are now being investigated on suspicion of manipulating the Libor rate, so critical to a \$700 trillion derivatives market.

Caught as the proverbial deer in the headlights, Barclays Chairman Robert E. Diamond Jr. resigned this week and offered a plaintive defense to the British Parliament that he learned only recently that his bank was manipulating the index on which so large a part of international trade is based. That is plausible only if we

assume he was paid \$10 million a year to be deliberately ignorant. The Wall Street Journal had exposed this scandal fully four years ago but his bank continued to participate in it nonetheless.

"Study Casts Doubt on Key Rate" was the headline on the May 29, 2008, investigative report, which concluded: "Major banks are contributing to the erratic behavior of a crucial global lending benchmark, a Wall Street Journal analysis shows." Even then, according to the report, it was known that the Libor rate was being manipulated "to act as if the banking system was doing better than it was at critical junctures in the financial crisis."



Robert E. Diamond. Photo: The CBI / Flickr

Fast-forward four years to Diamond's testimony before Parliament this week in which the CEO claimed his recent discovery of a pattern of interest manipulation by Barclays had made him "physically sick." Who was to blame? According to the executive, subordinates acting behind his back.

The American-born banker, who has dual citizenship in the United States and Britain, is well versed in financial chicanery, having started by putting together derivatives packages at Credit Suisse First Boston back in 1996.

He was compelled under parliamentary questioning Wednesday to admit that "I can't sit here and say no one in the industry [knew] about the problems with

Libor. There was an issue out there and it should have been dealt with more broadly."

He couldn't deny widespread chicanery within his bank because, as in the collapse of Enron a decade ago, investigators had uncovered an email record of market manipulation so glaring that if the top executives were unaware, it was because they didn't want to know.

As The New York Times editorialized: "The evidence, cited by the Justice Department—which Barclays agreed is 'true and accurate'—is damning. 'Always happy to help,' one employee wrote in an email after being asked to submit false information. 'If you know how to keep a secret, I'll bring you in on it,' wrote a Barclays trader to a trader at another bank, referring to their strategies for mutual gain. If that's not conspiracy and price-fixing, what is?"

The U.S. Justice Department made a deal with Barclays, and although it may prosecute some individuals in the scam, it agreed not to go after the bank itself. "Such an agreement makes sense only if that cooperation will allow prosecutors to nail other banks that have been involved in setting the rates, including potential cases against Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase and HSBC ...," the Times editorial said.

Both Citigroup and JPMorgan Chase were reported by The Wall Street Journal years ago to be suspected of rigging the Libor interest rate. The leaders of those banks, despite such media exposure, clearly remained confident enough to continue on their merry way.

The sad reality is that they will probably get away with it. The world of high finance is by design as obscure and opaque as the bankers and their political surrogates can make it, and even this most recent crack in their defense of deception will soon be made to go away. © 2012 Creators.com

http://truth-out.org/news/item/10187-robert-scheer-crime-of-the-century



## QUESTION MORE.

## Adrian Salbuchi: Are you on the 'SS Euro'? Abandon Ship!

Published: 5 June, 2012, 20:38, Edited: 5 June, 2012, 20:38

The Euro is creaking and making all sorts of funny noises. Lloyds of London – who have a pretty good ear for perceive impending disasters – says the insurance market is preparing for the Euro's collapse and is trying to reduce its exposure as much as possible.

Robert Ward chief executive of the multi-billion dollar and almost five hundred year old institution said Lloyd's may have to write-down on its £58.9 billion investment portfolio if the euro collapses. In the interview for The Sunday Telegraph he explained the market has put in place a contingency plan to switch euro underwriting to multi-currency claims settlements

It seems Lloyds believes 'Grexit' is looking more and more likely day by day. Insurers are a good reference point on this, since risk management lies at the very heart of insurance and reinsurance. London as well as Germany are two of the key global long-term risk management markets, counting on extensive expertise and experience in such potentially catastrophic financial upheavals.

Another major insurer providing credit insurance for Eurozone trade – the Franco-German Euler Hermes Group – has also stated is would be reducing coverage for trade with Greece. Clearly, a tell-tale sign that a

country is about to go bust is when credit insurance providers decide to stop trading with it.



Also going into Orange Alert Mode are the German mega-bankers. Last weekend Juergen Fitschen, cochief executive of Deutsche Bank, described Greece as a "failed state" run by corrupt politicians adding that even though he did not think that if Greece exits the Euro that would immediately lead to the collapse of the Eurozone, he was nevertheless jittery about the whole matter adding that "what we need to do is prepare for that eventuality."

Correct, Juergen! If Greece goes, then the temptation for Portugal, Ireland, Spain, Italy and others to follow suit would indeed be great. And maybe we should not just be focusing on the weak end of the Eurozone – Greece, Portugal, Spain, Italy – but should also turn an eye on its strong end: because even you Germans might, for very different reasons, end up realizing that you too would be far better off dumping the Euro and going back to the proverbially strong Deutsch Mark.

Then, Germany would have no need to bail-out and rough up "Today Greece, tomorrow Europe!". As German interior minister Hans-Peter Friedrich just told the Leipziger Volkszeitung newspaper, Germany was prepared to help rescue Greece but only if it helps itself and honours its agreements, adding that "We're not willing to pour money into a bottomless pit".

Come on, Germany! Look at history and start understanding that you'd be far better off looking eastwards, reaching intelligent agreements with raw-materials-rich Russia, rather than with just dragging as dead-weight "Old Europe" and its increasingly decadent and misgoverned American controllers.

Even quiet, conservative and bourgeois Switzerland had its Central Bank Governor Thomas Jordan also admitting that they too were drawing up contingency action plans in the event of the euro's collapse...

On May 25th, writing in the London Telegraph, conservative political columnist Bruce Anderson observed that European Union ideologues – "those wise men" as he calls them – made a double mistake: they both "underestimated and overestimated their fellow humans", because although globalization and global competition was nice ...for a while... "en-masse, human beings need the nation-state, just as individual humans need dwellings."

Comparing the EU to life in a great city, Anderson explains that "there are moments when most people

want to close their front door and relax at home. It helps to cope with all that pressure if you can live in a nation state, where you speak the language, understand the politics, respect the legal system," I would add, "where you can issue and control your own currency..."

It seems that those "wise men" of old and their modern Eurocrat counterparts in Brussels, Strasbourg and Frankfurt have been trying to run Europe by having "a French jockey on a German horse": two delusions that eventually led to the single-currency.

It's important to listen to what the British have to say about today's euro-crisis, because a decade ago they very intelligently accepted the European Union but rejected the single currency. And they were right!!

As Anderson aptly points out, "you cannot use the same interest rate in Dublin and Düsseldorf unless there are fiscal transfers. Monetary union must mean fiscal union. On the basis of no taxation without representation, this must lead on to political union. Instead, the Eurozone leaders told the architect to build the roof first...."

The result is today's unsustainable continent-wide crisis: rising unemployment, top-heavy pension systems, extreme hardship for the young and the poor which is leading to increasing social disorder, constant emigration from Greece, Spain and Italy that presses into northern Europe...

Europe today stands at a cross-roads: in the coming weeks and months it may be living its "To be or not to be" moment. It has been the European Union bureaucrats allied to the global banking mafia that led Europe to its present woes, so, Europe: don't look to them for "transnational crisis leadership" and "global solutions". They just won't deliver!!

Rather, seek common sense solutions at home, review recent / not so recent history; use your imagination more and your imaginary fears less.

Perhaps, the ultimate litmus test on this runs something like this: The more angry and furious Greece, Portugal, Spain, Ireland, Italy make the global private mega-bankers – and the IMF, ECB, Fed, and global rating agencies – the more certain you can be that you're on the <u>right</u> track.

Woe to Greece, woe to Spain, Italy and others if the day dawns when these mega-bankers applaud you saying they're "satisfied that you are doing the right thing".

That will undoubtedly mean you've put the noose around your own necks. For the love of God, don't do that!

Adrian Salbuchi is a political analyst, author, speaker and radio/TV commentator in Argentina. <a href="https://www.asalbuchi.com.ar">www.asalbuchi.com.ar</a>

**Analyst: Zionists employing three-track strategy to destroy Syria** 



Syrian rebels -file photo, Thu Jun 7, 2012 11:57PM GMT

The complicated situation in Syria is ever more obfuscated by myriad forces at work to destroy the friend of Iran and the foe of Israel...it is evident that the Zionist plot has been craftily devised to involve a military intervention in Syria and turn the country into chaos and ruins."

#### Dr. Ismail Salami, author and Middle East expert

A political analyst says Zionists are pursuing a three-track strategy of "labyrinthine madness" to topple the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and destroy Syria.

"A politically incorrect wave of labyrinthine madness is casting its heavy shadow over Syria as the country is being surrounded left and right by Zionist plots thickening beyond control," wrote Dr. Ismail Salami, author and Middle East expert, in an article published on the *Global Research* website on Monday.

Pointing to the activities of such Zionist heavyweights as Haim Saban, "an Egyptian born Israeli-American media mogul...and self-described as 'a one-issue man' with Israel being 'his issue'," he explained how Tel Aviv and its agents are working to unseat Assad.

"Israel is following a tripartite plot in order to topple Bashar Assad and destroy Syria under the guidance of [such figures as] Haim Saban: 1. make donations to political parties (e.g. funding and arming rebels and Wahhabi terrorists in Syria) 2. establish think tanks (e.g. setting up centers such as the Zionist Saban centers in Washington and Doha and formulating effective strategies to bring down the Assad government) and 3. control media (blacking out Arab and Western media from delivering honest and unbiased reports on the Syrian situation)," the author noted.

Elaborating on the role of Saban, he went on to say that in 2002, the influential Zionist "founded the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution, in Washington, D.C. which is affiliated to the powerful Zionist lobby in America notoriously known as AIPAC."

"Three ways to be influential in American politics are to make donations to political parties, establish think tanks, and control media outlets," Salami quoted Saban as saying during a conference in Israel.

The political analyst further singled out two other Zionist figures, Martin Indyk -- Vice President and Director of Foreign Policy at Brookings Institution -- and Shadi Hamid -- "the director of research at the Brookings Doha Center and Fellow at the Zionist Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution" -- for devising plans to subvert the Assad government.

"In fact, these centers are secretly tasked with formulating strategies and exploring effective ways to destabilize any regime in the Middle East which proves hostile or detrimental to the interests of Israel," he said

The author of *Human Rights in Islam* also criticized the "Arab puppet regimes such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar" for serving the interests of Washington and Tel Aviv by funding and equipping the Syrian rebels as well as financing the anti-Syria Zionist centers and think tanks.

"The complicated situation in Syria is ever more obfuscated by myriad forces at work to destroy the friend of Iran and the foe of Israel," Salami stated, adding that "it is evident that the Zionist plot has been craftily devised to involve a military intervention in Syria and turn the country into chaos and ruins." MAB/MHB/HN

http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2012/06/07/245107/analyst-zionists-strategy-destroy-syria/

## JHate — A blog about anti-Semitism

Please note that links on this blog may point to "live" anti-Semitic content.

## Holocaust denier Germar Rudolf spreads hate from Pennsylvania

Posted on June 4, 2012by Aryeh Tuchman



**Germar Rudolf** 

Holocaust denier Germar Rudolf is back in the United States, reporting on his website that he is living with his wife somewhere in Pennsylvania. He had kept a low profile for a while as he wrangled out legal complications preventing him from residing in the US. Now he is writing much more on his website, has become a regular quest on David Duke's internet radio show, and recently published a new book entitled Resistance is Obligatory, in which he presents the "uncensored inside story" of his 2007 conviction in Germany for defaming the memory of the dead and inciting racial hatred.



Daniel McGowan

Rudolf's new book has a <u>preface</u> by Daniel McGowan, a former professor of economics at Hobart and William Smith Colleges and Executive Director of <u>Deir Yassin Remembered</u>. I think it's fair to call McGowan himself a Holocaust denier. Although he protests that he has never denied the "tenets of the orthodox Holocaust narrative," he has <u>repeated many of the specific</u>

<u>arguments</u> that Holocaust deniers make about the historicity of the destruction of European Jewry, has called Elie Wiesel <u>a fraud</u>, and has been an enthusiastic supporter of deniers like Ernst Zundel, Bishop Richard Williamson, and Germar Rudolf.

It's hard for me to obtain the writings of Holocaust deniers and anti-Semites these days, so I don't know if I'll be able to review *Resistance is Obligatory*, but I'll try to keep an eye on what Germar Rudolf posts on his site.

☐ Mark Glenn's new anti-Semitic broadcasting network Germar Rudolf says Judaism is Nazism ☐

### 11 Responses to Holocaust denier Germar Rudolf spreads hate from Pennsylvania

<u> Jett Rucker</u> says:

June 4, 2012 at 1:02 pm

I wonder what's making it so hard to OBTAIN writings of Holocaust revisionists for our blogger? It's not like they're hard to find (Rudolf provides links from his Web site). OR expensive. I'll SEND you one, if you'll read it. Yes, even with your mind firmly closed. Has Dov Hikind shut down RUDOLF's credit-card capabilities, like he did David Irving's? Naw, that can't be it – that makes it hard for EVERYONE (not just "for me") to obtain his writings.



alanbstardmp says:

June 4, 2012 at 9:58 pm

because the " deniers " tell the truth and the scam  $\mbox{\sc must}$  be protected

iohn king says:

June 4, 2012 at 9:34 pm

We live in a really sick world where jails are used to imprison historians and scholars holding non-orthodox

views on historical issues. If Jews were routinely imprisoned for denying the existence of Jesus Christ (and their Pharisees condemnation of him — heck, it says in the Talmud that they hung him, lynched him, lol ) that would be poetic justice for them, as they routinely call for the heads of the holoco\$t "deniers" in those kosher dungeons in their vassal state, the Prison Republic of Germany (Gefängnisrepublik Deutschland) which recently delivered nuclear submarines to their true Herr, der Judenstaat. Nobody would give a damn about you denying all the people who died in the Soviet Union (or wartime "ally". Aren't we judged by the company we keep?) or Armenia or the communist revolution in China (some say 1 out of 10 Chinese murdered). Apparently in this sick kosher world Jewish lives have more value. Wasn't it Meir Kahane who referred to Palestianians as cock roaches? Rabbi Ovadia Yosef was recently quoted as saying that "Gentiles exist only to serve Jews." Do not expect protest of this statement from this site. I may have philosophical disagreements with the self-chosen but I am not a vulgar bastard who would go around saying that Jews should serve my ethnic group. I say down with this "god's choseness" BS. 'god' (lower case) may be the Jewish egregore (please look up the word) but GOD is the creator of all and sorry Shlomo, it created us all in ITS image. Please get with the 21st century. Perhaps the publisher of this blog will someday face a jail sentence for denying the existence of Jesus Christ. That will be the day when Jews are thrown in prisons for being Christ deniers. What's the difference? Answerwho holds the power.' Jews might want to moderate their position on sending holoco\$t deniers to the dungeon and crowing over it. History shows that the tables have turned on many occassions and that those who were at the top suddenly found themselves on the bottom. A word to the wise but I'm afraid that Chutzpah will make their eyes and ears oblivous to it.

alanbstardmp says:

June 4, 2012 at 9:58 pm

see my amswer to Jett, above



**a**lanbstardmp says:

#### June 4, 2012 at 9:57 pm

how can he be a hater, and does it matter, if the forensic science showed the truth? Simply replicate the



Germar Rudolf says:

#### June 4, 2012 at 10:25 pm

Some corrections:

- 1. I am not "looking for a permanent home." I have one.
- 2. In my book "Resistance is Obligatory" I do not present "the 'uncensored inside story' of [my] 1995 conviction in Germany [...], [my] flight from Germany to avoid serving [my] sentence, and [my] subsequent attempts to enter and settle in the United States." The book reproduces my defense speech made, and a number of pertinent documents introduced, during my trial in 2006/2007 in Mannheim, Germany.
- 3. During that trial, I was not indicted or sentenced for "inciting racial hatred," but for "inciting the masses" allegedly committed by my book "Lectures on the Holocaust" (<a href="http://tinyurl.com/87wbbfq">http://tinyurl.com/87wbbfq</a>) and promotional material for it.
- 4. My book "Resistance Is Obligatory" is readily available at <a href="http://tinyurl.com/6ucasow">http://tinyurl.com/6ucasow</a>
- 5. Most revisionist books can be downloaded for free at <a href="http://holocausthandbooks.com">http://holocausthandbooks.com</a>, so no excuses, please.

Germar Rudolf

Aryeh Tuchman says:

#### June 4, 2012 at 11:42 pm

Mr. Rudolf, two of your points are directly contradicted by statements on your own website. Regarding your indictment and sentence, your own site includes a translation of the Stuttgart verdict against you which states: "The accused is sentenced for incitement of the

people in conjunction with denigration of the memory of the dead, libel and incitement to racial hatred." Regarding your living arrangements: After describing the death of your wife's paternal grandfather, you state, "Hence I had no chance to settle into the home we had bought in 2005, as we moved out of it in early 2012. Now we are in Pennsylvania, trying to finally find a permanent home." I have no reason to doubt that you have since found a permanent residence, but my post was accurate according to material your yourself had posted online.

I described your book based on the promotional materials for it on the TBR website, as you can see from the link in my post. If those materials are inaccurate, well, I guess it won't be the first time TBR got something wrong.

Thanks for the reference to where I can obtain your new book online. I was already aware of the other Holocaust handbooks.



#### June 5, 2012 at 7:01 am

Mr. Tuchman, allow me to clarify the issues raised. The book is NOT about the 1994/1995 Stuttgart trial and verdict, but about the 2006/2007 Mannheim trial and verdict. The TBR website does not claim otherwise, as it mentions no 1995 verdict, but refers to a trial after my deportation in 2005. You can find the 2007 verdict here: http://tinyurl.com/bgeuhyb. It says nothing about racial hatred. As to TBR's description of my "Resistance" book: it was taken from the book's back cover, except for the last two sentences and the very first paragraph, which is a brief summary of my fate leading up to the book's topic. It was added by TBR to enlighten the uninformed reader about me. The remaining 80% of the text is an accurate description of the book's content, though. As to my living arrangements: you quoted out of context. I wrote: "In the meantime, my wife's paternal grandfather had died and had left a house in Pennsylvania to her aunt, who wants to sell it to us. Hence I had no chance to settle into the home we had bought in 2005, as we moved out of it in early 2012. Now we are in Pennsylvania, trying to finally find a permanent home." From this it is clear that we moved to Pennsylvania in order to move into my late grandfather-in-law's house with the intention to make it our permanent home. The "trying" is in there because people like you keep pushing me around, foiling all attempts at being at home permanently anywhere.

#### <u>Aryeh Tuchman</u> says:

#### June 5, 2012 at 12:47 pm

Thanks, Mr. Rudolf, rereading the TBR piece I see what you mean. Re your living arrangements, I don't think I was quoting you out of context, but I may have misunderstood what you were trying to say. I will emend my posting on these points.

As for whether you were convicted in 2007 for "inciting the masses" or "inciting racial hatred," as far as I know in both cases you were convicted of having violated section 130 of the German criminal code, which prohibits inciting hatred against a specific national, racial, religious or ethnic group, and which tends to be shortened to "inciting racial hatred" in common parlance.

On your last point, I'm sorry if you're having a hard time settling down. But I'm not the one who chose to publish material that could run afoul of Germany's antiracism laws, or to flee the country rather than face the consequences; that was you. It was also your choice subsequently to continue publishing on topics that you knew had gotten you in legal trouble before. And you're hardly the only immigrant to the US who has gotten the run around from the INS. Seems like most of your problems stem from your own choices and some bad luck with government bureaucracies, not from me or "people like me" (Jews? Bloggers?) pushing you around.



#### Your comment is awaiting moderation. [-Tuchman never published the item.]

Mr. Tuchman, "common parlance" is exactly the problem of your post. Just because a lot of people talk nonsense doesn't mean it therefore makes sense. Since Jews most certainly are NOT a race (many of them are actually ethnic Germans, as you probably are as well, judging by your last name), any acts or statements subjectively perceived as anti-Jewish cannot per se be racist (unless the perpetrator claims Jews to be a race, which I have never done). My acts, which the court considered capable of fomenting negative feelings toward Jews, cannot possibly have incited anyone to \*racial\* hatred. For the rest of your statement, allow me to deliberate: Just because a government does something does not mean it is legal or even legitimate. Claiming this would amount to you endorsing the acts of Germany's government from 1933 to 1945. I'm sure you don't. So the proof lies in the pudding. If a government enacts laws which are illegal under its own constitution and which are also in violation of international law, then it is not the person running afoul of those laws who is responsible for the acts of persecution subsequently suffered. In fact, the German Constitutional High Court \*admitted\* in writing in 2009 that the very §130 I was sentenced for is indeed in violation of the German constitution. I quote: "In general, restrictions to the freedom of opinion are permissible only on the basis of general laws according to art. 5, para. 2, alternative 1, [German] Basic Law [Germany's surrogate constitution]. A law restricting opinions is an inadmissible special law, if it is not formulated in a sufficiently open way and is directed right from the start only against certain convictions, attitudes, or ideologies. [...] the regulation of art. 130, para. 4, German Penal Code is not a general law [...]" (Press release of 4 Nov. 2009, based on case # 1 BvR 2150/08;

www.bundesverfassungsgericht.de/pressemitteilungen/ bvq09-129.html.) They rubber-stamped that law anyway, arguing that exceptions to the prohibition of exceptional laws are permitted in exceptional cases. Talking about dialectic sophistry, here you have a pinnacle of it. With that kind of "exceptional laws" Hitler reigned quite "successfully" for many years. That's exactly why the postwar German constitution outlaws exceptions - only for the Freislers of today to allow them back in through the backdoor. Resistance fighters against Hitler's rule "by exception," who subsequently suffered persecution, are heroes for most people, probably for you as well. So why suddenly turn things upside down, when the shoe is on the other foot? And as to your contribution to this: First of all, you have the wrong focus. Not ostracized, marginalized, powerless individuals like me are a threat worth constant monitoring. Governments with all their power are the main threat to all our liberties for all of us, like the above-mentioned decision of the German Constitutional High Court, or the U.S. government's gutting of our civil liberties ever since 9/11. By beating up on the victims of government persecution, as you are doing with your polemical post about me, you are exacerbating the problem by legitimizing such persecution and the gutting of our civil liberties. Second, one can incite people to hatred by making derogatory, unjustified remarks about a person. Falsely claiming publicly that somebody is spreading hatred is one way of achieving this, as this will potentially exposes the thusly accused to the disdain, if not hatred, of those reading the message. I have asked you separately to indicate where exactly I am spreading hatred, as you claim with your post's headline. The content of your post makes no allusions to any hatred spread by me. So far you have not answered my question. Should you do so, please do me the favor and don't use "common parlance," like saying that certain historical claims are automatically considered to be hateful by the vast majority. That's the same logic as

saying that everybody should eat scat, because billions of flies cannot be wrong; or that we all should jump down a cliff, because thousands of lemmings cannot be wrong. Hateful speech manifests itself not in its contents (as long as it doesn't advocate the extra-legal infringement on other persons' civil rights), but in a demeaning style and a hateful, derogatory vocabulary. Show me where I have done that, toward Jews or anyone else. Just because I disagree with you on aspects of the Holocaust doesn't mean I spread hate (allegedly against Jews, Poles, Communists, Homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and what have you). Because if that is how it's defined, I could claim the same: Since you disagree with me on aspects of the Holocaust, this means that you spread hate (against Germans, Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Christians, Palestinians, Muslims, Arabs, and what have you). Either a logical argument can be applied universally, or it is worthless. Finally, acts of incitement to hatred can be gauged by their societal effects. Let's make a thought experiment: What happens if a Jew stands up in front of an average audience and announces that he is a Jew and wants to talk about his views as a Jew? And now, contrast this to what happens if a Holocaust revisionist stands up in front of an average audience and announces that he is a Holocaust revisionist and wants to talk about his views as a Holocaust revisionist? I don't think I have to explain to you what will happen in both cases. So how come there is such a huge difference in the audience's reaction? Hence, has the world been incited to hatred against Jews, or to hatred against Holocaust revisionists? It is obvious that the latter is the case. And who, ever since the end of WWII, has perpetrated with impunity this incitement to hatred against persons endeavoring in the standard academic activity of revising historiography? The answer to that question is complex and multifaceted. Suffice it to say here that many powerful groups and individuals have been and still are engaged in this nefarious activity. To summarize, Mr. Tuchman: You are a part of the problem. You howl with the wolves, blame the victims, and expose them with your writings to even more disdain and hatred.



#### Watchman on the Wall says:

#### June 7, 2012 at 12:48 pm

Mr. Tuchman, you fail to understand that when the state enacts laws which are unjust or which seek to silence the objective, documented and verifiable truth, it is the duty of all followers of Jesus Chist and the one true God to stand against and oppose such unjust laws. Mr. Rudolf is clearly bringing delight and pleasure to God for his integrity, his courage and his heroism and I salute him!

Above the secular world is the kingdom of God whose justice is flawless. All laws which conflict with God's revealed words of the Bible – both Old Testament and New are trumpted by God's truth. Judgment Day will make this reality evident to all. We are now witnessing end times Bible prophecies being fulfilled in our lifetimes, so we can be quite confident that Judgment Day is not far off.



#### Patty says:

#### June 5, 2012 at 11:32 pm

Germar Rudolf is another hero for truth & the integrity of scientific research. The Jews hate anyone not kissing their asses & licking their boots so keep up the good work Germar. The Jews live in darkness but we Gentiles hunger for the light, which you bring. History will be kind to you— think Galileo. Future generations will learn of the gigantic hoax called the "Holocaust".



#### V<u>Fredrick Toben</u> says:

Your comment is awaiting moderation.

#### June 6, 2012 at 2:01 am

1. The brief Rudolf-Tuchman exchange illustrates something significant [or should I call Tuchman 'ragman'?] It reminds me of the fact that four notable

Jews: Einstein, Freud, Mahler and Marx were all native German speakers, which enabled them to be creative but then something went wrong in their value system that caused them to become delusional and begin to believe in their own propaganda - and fabricate things, then outright distort and lie.

- 2. In the above exchange Tuchman makes some assertions that Rudolf then corrects - and again Tuchman sums up and again Rudolf has to correct. This means Tuchman has just been given a basic lesson in Revisionist's methodology.
- 3. However, I'm being kind because Tuchman is actually trying to distort basic facts and smear Rudolf's truth-telling.
- **4.** I had this kind of thing happen to me in 2007 when I apologised to the Federal Court of Australia - in the Bishop Williamson mode. The media reports claimed I had given a "Holocaust denial" apology, which would have been a re-canting of my beliefs. When I spent

time inside a prison for contempt of court the media again labelled it as a sentence for "antisemitism" or "Holocaust denial", which was not the case. 5. Tuchman's doing the same thing by heading his comment "Holocaust denier" and using the concept "hate" because he just cannot admit to himself that if he did open his mind to what Revisionist researchers have found - the physical evidence - then he would have to revise his views on the value of the official Holocaust-Shoah narrative and its truth-content.

6. No-one easily cares to admit privately or publicly that they have believed in something that is, in Arthur Butz's words, 'rubbish'. That is why it is so sad to see individuals resorting to shut-up words in order to close down an open debate: 'Hater', 'Holocaust denier', 'antisemite', 'racist', 'Nazi'.

Comments are closed.

http://jhate.wordpress.com/2012/06/04/holocaustdenier-germar-rudolf-spreads-hate-frompennsylvania/?replytocom=295#respond

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES OPINION

## Three cheers for discrimination

Paul Sheehan, August 31, 2009

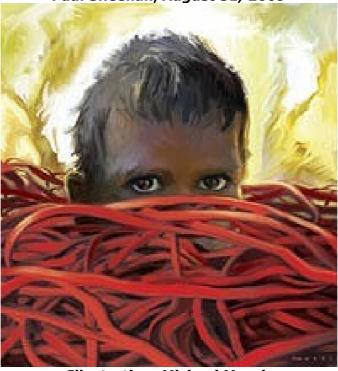


Illustration: Michael Mucci.

I've never been to the Lyceum Club, and it would never admit me as a member. Rightly so. The Lyceum Club discrimination and its elitism, both admirable qualities.

Besides, as Groucho Marx once said, "I would not join any club that would have me as a member".

On Thursday the Governor-General, Quentin Bryce, was made an honorary member of the 97-year-old club, which is for women only.

Members must also be university graduates or have distinguished themselves in the arts or public service. The club is self-consciously exclusive, much like the equally venerable Queens Club in Sydney or the century-old Brisbane Women's Club, which also benefit from the absence of men.

The Governor-General was once the Australian Human Rights Commission's Sex Discrimination Commissioner. The present occupant of that position, Elizabeth Broderick, has used the occasion to offer her opinion that it is "not smart" for any such institution to lock out half of the population.

No, what is not smart is Broderick's sanctimonious, gratuitous intervention. It is emblematic of the commission's hunger for relevance.

An even more counterproductive contribution was made a few days earlier by another senior member of the Commission, the Social Justice Commissioner, Tom Calma. He proposed a national Aboriginal representative body to fill the consultative gap left by the demise of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, shut down in 2005 because of corruption and maladministration.

Australia's indigenous population does not need more symbolic, costly window-dressing in the name of inclusion, consultation and self-determination. It needs good managers, effective programs, and fearless case-by-case pragmatism, not more tax-funded frequent-flyer points. The Human Rights Commission has done little to curb the endemic violence and child abuse among indigenous Australians, or the legal system's appalling record in sexual assault cases, or the prevalence of inter-ethnic crime - a problem it cannot bring itself to even admit, let alone address.

These are the major human rights issues within Australia, and the commission is largely missing in action. Instead, it forms part of a burgeoning, increasingly suffocating, passive-aggressive, ideologically-tainted rights culture flowering within our legal system and public sector. The Rudd Government, with its mania for micro-management and government control, is merely accelerating the process.

The latest contributions from commissioners Broderick and Calma evoke for me the observation of Philip Howard, author of the 1994 bestseller *The Death of Common Sense*, in his new book, *Life Without Lawyers*, that "society faces a crisis of authority brought on not be too few rules, but by too many".

In the 23 years of the Human Rights Commission's existence, it has managed to spend, in real terms, about \$400 million on itself while its most signal contribution to society has been to divide, not unify, by helping the construction of the greatest lie ever told about Australia: that tens of thousands of children were stripped from their families in a process of cultural genocide, a claim since reduced to ashes in the courts.

The commission's strategic plan for the next three years makes bleak reading: "By 2011, we expect to see that:

"We have a strong presence in all sectors of the media whenever human rights issues important to us are discussed and debated.

"We have substantial influence in putting new and important human rights issues into the public arena.

"We have a greater influence on Federal Government human rights policy.

"We are a central player in securing a federal charter of rights.

"We motivate big business to incorporate human rights into their everyday business practice.

"We influence courts to develop progressive approaches to human rights.

"Our complaint process is recognised as a central component in the protection and promotion of human rights.

"We will know we have reached our 2011 targets if:

"All sectors of the media routinely quote us in important human rights discussions and consider us to be the main authority on human rights in Australia.

"Australia has a charter of rights and we can demonstrate our significant role in that outcome.

"We make court submissions on human rights that other individuals or organisations cannot or will not make and these submissions influence courts.

"Our complaint service is highly utilised and we are recognised for excellence in complaint-handling theory and practice."

These are the goals of a bureaucracy utterly captured by "progressive" ideologues. More influence. More rights. More litigation. Even though creating a federal charter of rights is a highly politicised and divisive issue, and the commission has no mandate, whatsoever, from the public, it is so ideologically-driven, so institutionally narcissistic, that it cannot resist injecting itself into the process rather than waiting, with the impartiality expected of civil servants, until it receives a mandate from the public it is supposed to serve.

Note that its top priority is publicity. Above all, it wants to be quoted in the media. At the bottom of its list is service. The complaints process is last on the list of priorities, and even that is embedded with cultural cyanide: "Our complaint service is highly utilised."

The commission sees an increase in complaints as a sign of health, justifying its large budget and its incessant quest for influence.

Common sense would suggest just the opposite, that a decline in complaints is a sign of social health. But the commission, in its myopia, is more concerned with self-perpetuation.

The person who must accept responsibility for this disgraceful commitment to intimidation is the president of the commission, Catherine Branson, QC, a former federal judge. One day, when the political wheel has turned, the Federal Government should liquidate the commission, ridding us of another parasitic bureaucracy beyond reform.

http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/threecheersfordiscri mination20090830f3xo.html#ixzz1wmkjmn2H

## The Truth About JP Morgan's \$2 Billion Loss



Global Research, May 16, 2012 <a href="http://www.globalresearch.ca">http://www.globalresearch.ca</a>
Washington's Blog <a href="http://washingtonsblog.org/">http://washingtonsblog.org/</a>

Before we can understand what's really going on with JP Morgan's loss (which will probably end up being a lot more than \$2 billion), we need a little background.

JP Morgan:

- Is the world's largest publicly-traded company
- Is the <u>largest bank in the U.S.</u> ... the biggest of the too big to fail banks which are <u>killing the American</u> <u>economy</u>
- Is the <u>largest derivatives dealer</u> in the world (and <u>see this</u>), and derivatives are <u>inherently destabilizing</u> for the economy
- Essentially <u>wrote</u> the faux "reform" legislation for derivatives, which did nothing to decrease risk, and <u>killed</u> any chance of *real* reform
- Is the <u>creator</u> of <u>credit default swaps</u> which <u>caused</u> the 2008 financial <u>crisis</u>, and is the asset class which blew up and caused the loss
- Has had large potential exposures to credit default swap losses  $\underline{\text{for years}}$
- Has replaced the chief investment officer who made the risky bets with a trader who <u>worked at</u> Long Term Capital Management ... which committed suicide by making risky bets
- Went completely insolvent in the 1980s
- ... and <u>again in 2007</u> ( and was saved both times by the government at taxpayer expense)
- <u>Heads with Goldman Sachs the Treasury</u> <u>Borrowing Advisory Committee</u>, which helps set government financial policy
- Has a reputation of being the  $\underline{\mathsf{most}}\ \mathsf{risk}\text{-}\mathsf{averse}$  of the big Wall Street players
- Was kept alive by a <u>huge government bailout</u> ... but used the money to <u>invest in India</u> and other projects which won't really help Americans
- Has made a killing by kicking <u>companies</u> (and see <u>this</u>) and <u>governments</u> (and <u>here</u>) when they are down, engaging in <u>various types of fraud</u> (<u>update</u>), allegedly <u>manipulating the silver market</u>, and profiting on misery by acting as the <u>largest processor of food stamps</u> in America.

In addition, JPM's CEO Jamie Dimon:

- Is a <u>Class A Director of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York</u>, which is the chief bank regulator for Wall Street (including JPM). Indeed, Dimon served on the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York at the

same time that his bank received emergency loans from the Fed and was used by the Fed as a clearing bank for the Fed's emergency lending programs. In 2008, the Fed provided JP Morgan Chase with \$29 billion in financing to acquire Bear Stearns. At the time, Dimon persuaded the Fed to provide JP Morgan Chase with an 18-month exemption from risk-based leverage and capital requirements. He also convinced the Fed to take risky mortgage-related assets off of Bear Stearns balance sheet before JP Morgan Chase acquired this troubled investment bank

- Has a reputation of being the <u>"golden boy"</u> and smartest guy on Wall Street
- Has been the <u>chief spokesman and advocate for deregulation</u> of banks, and has <u>lectured</u>, <u>scolded and cajoled</u> everyone who has questioned his banking practices
- <u>Jokes about</u> a new financial crisis happening "every five to seven years"

#### What Does It Mean?

Pundits and consumers alike are reacting to JP Morgan's loss like a startled herd of sheep.

They somehow believed that the "best of the breed" bank and CEO – the biggest boy on the block – was immune from losses. Especially since JPM has been so favored by the Feds, and Dimon was so favored that he was being groomed for Secretary of Treasury.

And the fact that the head cheerleader for letting banks police themselves has egg on his face is making a lot of people nervous.

And that the biggest of the too big to fails *could* conceivably fail.

The government says its <u>launching a criminal probe</u> into JPM's trades.

Ratings services have downgraded JPM's credit, and many commentators have noted that <u>other banks may be downgraded</u> as well.

Elizabeth Warren is calling for Dimon to resign from the New York Fed:

<u>Even CNBC</u> is now calling for Glass-Steagall to be put back in place.

Banking expert Chris Whalen writes:

Someone at the Fed should have at least secondary accountability for the JPM losses if the VaR model/process was faulty. Is there any accountability for incompetent, badly managed federal bank

regulators? As our colleague Janet Tavakoli wrote in the <u>Huffington Post:</u> "The U.S. can count on JPMorgan to continue both long and short market manipulation and take its winnings and losses from blind gambles. Shareholders, taxpayers, and consumers will foot the bill for any unpleasant global consequences."

We think that the loss by JPM is ultimately yet another legacy of the era of "laissez-faire" regulation and even overt Fed advocacy for the use of OTC derivatives by US banks. Fed officials such as Pat Parkinson, who retired as head of the Fed's division of supervision and regulation in January, were effectively lobbyists for the large banks and their derivatives activities. It seems a little ridiculous for the same Fed officials who caused the problem over the years to now be tasked with investigating JPM, much less regulation of large bank dealings in OTC instruments.

And Reuters correctly notes:

JP Morgan Chase's loss is the perhaps inevitable result of the interaction of two policies: too big to fail and zero interest rates [loans from FED which creates unlimited amounts of money from nothing to banks which create limited amounts of money from nothing].

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Too big to fail, the de facto insurance provided by the U.S. to financial institutions so big their failure would be disastrous, provides JP Morgan and its peers with a material advantage in funding and as counterparties. Depositors see it as an advantage, as do bondholders and other lenders. That leaves TBTF banks flush with cash.

At the same time, ultra-low interest rates make the traditional business of banks less attractive, naturally leading to a push to make money elsewhere. [See this.] With interest rates virtually nothing at the short end but not terribly higher three, five or even 10 years out, net interest margins, once the lifeblood of large money center banks, are disappointingly thin. Given that investors are rightly dubious about the quality of bank earnings, and thus unwilling to attach large equity market multiples to them, this puts even more pressure on managers to look elsewhere for profits.

Investors believe, rightly, that the largest banks won't be allowed to fail; what they also appear to believe is that they very well may not be able to prosper and that to the extent they do shareholders won't fairly participate.

What would you do if you had a built-in funding advantage but little demand for your services as a traditional lender, i.e., one which borrows short and lends long? If you are anything like JP Morgan Chase appears to be you will put some of that lovely liquidity to work in financial markets, hoping to turn a built-in advantage into revenue.

JP Morgan stoutly maintains that the purpose of the trades was to hedge exposure elsewhere, as opposed to being proprietary trading intended to generate profits.

That's contradicted by a report from Bloomberg citing current and former employees of the chief executive office, including its former head of credit trading. <a href="http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-05-14/dimonfortress-breached-as-push-from-hedging-to-betting-blows-up.html">http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-05-14/dimonfortress-breached-as-push-from-hedging-to-betting-blows-up.html</a>

The Volcker Rule, now being shaped, is intended to stop such speculative trades, though in practice debating what is a hedge and what isn't is a sort of angels-dancing-on-the-heads-of-pins argument which makes effective regulation almost impossible.

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The keys are motive, opportunity and ability. Profits – and the investment office is reported to have made considerable ones in the past – provide a more believable motive than simple hedging. Opportunity is afforded by the combination of a privileged funding cost combined with poor alternative places to put money to work elsewhere in the banking business. While there may be some active borrowers, and TBTF banks enjoy an unfair advantage in serving their needs, the trans-Atlantic balance-sheet recession means households and businesses are showing a preference for paying back loans rather than taking them out.

Bruce Lee, chief credit officer of Fifth Third Bancorp, which isn't TBTF, was frank about this recently, saying that the value of deposit funding was now at its lowest in his career.

Finally there is ability, and like common sense all bankers believe they have the ability to trade successfully despite the wealth of historical evidence to the contrary.

While events show clearly that JP

Morgan wasn't able to adequately manage its own business, an attack on it engaging in speculation doesn't actually hinge on that.

There is clearly a public policy outrage here because should JP Morgan find itself in difficulties due to speculation the taxpayer will end up paying the freight. That's probably not even the worst of it. All of the profits that TBTF banks make through speculation have been subsidized and enabled by the taxpayer. It is obvious that managers and employees have an incentive to take risks because, after all, TBTF may not be forever but they will capture 35 or 40 percent of the inflated takings so long as it lasts. Even if JP Morgan never blew up speculative trades, we should still oppose them so long as they are made possible and profitable by government policy.

Raising interest rates in order to remove an incentive to speculation probably wouldn't work; low rates are the result of too much debt as well as a palliative for that disease.

The Volcker Rule won't be effective; it is impossible to distinguish hedges from speculation and either can blow up banks.

The better alternative is to end the policy of too big to fail, preferably while at the same time forcing all banks out of the business of market speculation through a revival of the kind of Glass-Steagall-like policy which encouraged a small and useful financial sector for decades, forcing those that want government insurance

to act like utilities, taking deposits, processing payments and making simple loans.

Let the investment banks take their risks, take their chances and suffer their losses – as separate entities.

http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va& aid=30859

# \* Roger Garaudy died on 13 June 2012 aged 98 \* The Real Challenge in the Middle East is Ideology Monday, July 2, 2012, JNS

Roger Garaudy, the French self-styled philosopher who died on June 13 aged 98, was an exceptional individual. And I don't mean that as a compliment.

Garaudy began his political life as a communist and then converted to Islam, changing his first name from "Roger" to "Ragaa." Along the way, he authored a noxious screed entitled, "The Founding Myths of Israeli Politics," in which he denied the Nazi Holocaust. For his pains, he was fined a hefty sum by a French court for violating that country's laws against Holocaust denial and handed a suspended prison sentence. Following the atrocities of September 11, 2001, Garaudy actively promoted the conspiracy theory that the attacks on New York and Washington, DC were the work of the U.S. government.

Garaudy's great contribution was thus to embrace, in a single lifetime, the principle expressions of totalitarianism in the 20th century: communist, fascist and Islamist. No sensible person, one would imagine, could mourn the death of such a man, nor find any intellectual sustenance in the writings of a conspiracy theorist.

Actually, Garaudy had plenty of admirers. The late, unlamented Libyan dictator, Muammar Gaddafi, described him as "Europe's greatest philosopher since Plato and Aristotle." Not be outdone, Abdul Halim-Khaddam, the former Syrian vice president and a loyal servant of the Assad dynasty until he fell out with Bashar al Assad in 2005, praised him as the "greatest contemporary western philosopher." Arab conservatives, too, found much to appreciate: In 1986, Garaudy was awarded Saudi Arabia's King Faisal Prize for Services to Islam.

Click photo to download. Caption: Roger Garaudy. Credit: Dzlinker.Shortly after Garaudy died, the Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe (FIOE) lauded his "...humane example; we ask Allah, the Almighty, to receive him with His Bountiful Mercy, and to accept him among the righteous." Their attraction to this peddler of lies is not hard to understand, given that FIOE once claimed that Israel was selling vodka on the Russian market in bottles labeled with a picture of the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem. FIOE is also a European affiliate of the Muslim Brotherhood, the party that embraced anti-Semitism at its inception and is now, through the person of Mohamed Morsi, in control of the Egyptian Presidency.

In Iran, the mullahs awarded Garaudy celebrity status. During the 1990s, he visited Tehran, where he was received with full honors by then President Mohammed Khatami. This event took place, it should be noted, several years before Mahmoud Ahmadinejad became Iran's President; Khatami was widely feted in the West as a moderate alternative to the hardliners around the Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei. And once Ahmadinejad became President, he quickly organized an international parley of Holocaust deniers in Tehran in 2006. Unable to attend because of illness, Garaudy sent the conference a videotaped message.

Garaudy's legacy was on full display in Tehran again last week, when Iranian Vice President Mohammad Reza Rahimi delivered a speech to an audience of highranking diplomats at a UN-sponsored conference on drug trafficking. Did Rahimi address concerns about Iran's role in the transportation of heroin from Afghanistan to the West? No. Instead, he warned shocked delegates that the narcotics trade was run by Jews, acting on the instructions supposedly contained in the Talmud. Rahimi's line—"the book teaches them how to destroy non-Jews, so as to protect an embryo in the womb of a Jewish mother"—could have been written by Garaudy.

Of course, this was not the first time that a senior Iranian official uttered such contemptible remarks before an apparently civilized, sophisticated audience. In 2007, Ali Larijani, at the time Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, addressed the Munich Security Conference, a major annual event that brings together leading politicians, military personnel and policy analysts. Asked whether he endorsed Ahmadinejad's denial of the Holocaust, Larijani answered that it was an "open question" as to whether the Nazi slaughter of the Jews had taken place.

For all the huffing and puffing that enraged Westerners engage in after being subjected to speeches like these, one might think that they would learn from their mistakes. If you ask Iran to host an international gathering, or if you invite a representative of the Iranian regime to a prestigious event, then speeches promoting Holocaust denial and other conspiracy theories will follow as surely as night does day.

But Western policymakers don't learn from their mistakes for one good reason. They are in denial about the true nature of a political culture in which denial of

the Holocaust has become a sacred dogma. In the eyes of too many Western diplomats, the competing forces on the world stage are all rational actors; if some of these actors make outrageous statements, it is because they themselves have been insulted. By focusing on tangible results—creating a Palestinian state, for example, or offering assurances that Iran's nuclear program will not be targeted by a military strike—their hope is that these flights of ideological lunacy will be reined in.

What this demonstrates is the enormous gulf between the West and the prevailing systems of belief in the Islamic world. In our culture, someone like Garaudy is a figure to be avoided, or mocked, or both. However, for Arab and Muslim leaders, a European intellectual who tells them the things they are predisposed to believe is manna from heaven. Why should they take German or French diplomats at face value when there are people like Garaudy claiming that everything they say is a pack of lies dictated by a Jewish conspiracy?

Until Western leaders grasp that the true challenge posed by the Middle East lies not in tangible elements, like Israeli settlements or water policies, but rather intangible ones in the form of beliefs like those outlined above, there will be no chance of progress. We in the West learned a long time ago that ideas matter. It is high time to apply that insight to the Middle East. Should we arrive at a juncture when conspiracymongers like Roger Garaudy are treated with the same contempt as they are in the West, the much-heralded Arab Spring will truly have sprung.

Click photo to download. Caption: Ben Cohen.Ben Cohen is the Shillman Analyst for JNS.org. His writings on Jewish affairs and Middle Eastern politics have been published in Commentary, the New York Post, Ha'aretz, Jewish Ideas Daily and many other publications.

http://www.thejewishweek.com/news/news-brief/real-challenge-middle-east-ideology?nocache=1#comment-21481

#### Comment:

Submitted by <u>Bruce Bahmani</u> (not verified) on Tue, 07/03/2012 - 20:23.

Garaudy only proves that the Good die young, but Bastards seem to live forever. As an Iranian that has always admired Jews for their philosophy and beliefs and actions, I can relate only somewhat as an oppressed Iranian. I can only apologize for the wild animal inhumanity to mankind being perpetrated using the stationery of Iran. This is certainly not us.

Islam has made Iran into this degenerate, spoil sport that wishes to ruin any and every game it enters. Wreck the Freedom party, and make everyone feel bad for coming. Guilty for celebrating. Iran is jealous of everyone else's joy.

This is certainly not us.

The full test of Egypt will be it's constitution. So far Iraq and Afghanistan's matches Iran's perfectly.

"[insert country name here] is a moslem state. No law shall be passed that goes against the Qoran..."

Under the very fine nose of Condi Rice, Iraq managed to slip in the added "...and is part of the greater Arab Nation..", thereby creating the first record of the much anticipated unification of Arabs maneuver we have all been worried about.

Looks like we will have to wait and see if Mr. Morsi has any mercy.

#### From: Fredrick Töben, Adelaide, Australia

The challenge is not ideology but finding the truthcontent of what is being alleged.

Any material that individuals find upsetting needs to be vetted for truth-content, and then perhaps the truth hurts those who have believed in lies.

Then consider that as soon as two individuals get together there is a conspiracy afoot - it is the nature of the human beast to plan and do things.

What I then say is this: 'Don't blame the Jews, blame those that bend to their pressure!'

This brings a balance into the equation and then blame can be apportioned where it is due.

For example, I am about to be bankrupted because I refuse to believe in Holocaust lies - and I can state that it is Jews who are doing this to me, but not only because in the Australian judiciary Jews have many helpers who willingly do their bidding.

#### **President Putin's visit to Israel-Palestine**

#### Pomp but no shift on Iran as Putin visits Israel By Anshel Pfeffer, June 28, 2012

The 24-hour visit to Israel by the Russian President was heavy on ceremony but lean on progress on the key issues of Iran and Syria.

Vladimir Putin's whirlwind trip through the Middle East began in Netanya where, after arriving 90 minutes late, he joined Israeli President Shimon Peres to dedicate a memorial commemorating the Allied victory in the Second World War.

The delay did not detract from the grandeur of Mr Putin's visit, who chose to begin his regional tour in Israel and was accompanied by a 350-strong entourage, including politicians, oligarchs and rabbis. President Peres met Mr Putin for a second time at a dinner at his residence in Jerusalem. On both

dinner at his residence in Jerusalem. On both occasions, the Israeli head of state brought up in his speeches the deepening civil war in Syria and the threat of Iran's nuclear bomb. "None of us can stand the sight of coffins and in them children," he said to the

man propping up the regime of Bashar al-Assad, "it is beyond politics." Regarding Iran, Mr Peres said, "I know that Russia is against Iran developing weapons of mass destruction. It's important for this effort not to weaken."

Mr Putin, who has publicly backed Iran's right to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes, did not mention Iran directly in his address but said: "We have to think of the results of actions before you begin them. Look at what happened in Iraq and Afghanistan."

According to diplomatic sources, the talks on the twin issues with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were "frank and open" and there was "a feeling that Putin and Netanyahu share a common language".

The talks, which included Defence Minister Ehud Barak, Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman and the head of Israel's National Security Council, Yaakov Amidror, focused on Israel's requests from Russia to ensure that Syria's stockpile of chemical and biological weapons did not fall into the hands of terror organisations and to support the international sanctions on Iran. The Russians did not commit on either issue.

http://www.thejc.com/news/israel-

news/69291/pomp-no-shift-iran-putin-visits-israel

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## News Analysis: Putin's visit to Israel more symbolic than strategic

Xinhua 08:29, June 25, 2012

JERUSALEM, June 24. Iran's nuclear program will be at the top of the agenda in Israeli officials meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who will arrive in Israel on Monday for a one-day visit.

With close business ties with Iran and as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Russia wields considerable influence over Iran's nuclear issue, which Israel will want to exploit toward imposing tougher sanction on Iran, meant to convince it to end its alleged nuclear military program.

However, analysts told Xinhua that all the main issues to be discussed at the head-of-state level meetings have already been dealt with in lower level preparatory meetings held months ago, and no drastic changes are likely.

"I don't think that there will be any very serious political discussions during this one-day visit; mainly it

will be a ceremonial visit," Dr. Baruch Gurevitch of the University of Haifa told Xinhua on Sunday.

"There will be a short meeting in which some political matters will be discussed. In general there will be a bit on Syria and a bit on Iran but it won't be a very important political visit," he added.

The situation in Syria, which continues to look more and more like a civil war, is of lesser interest to Israel, although Israel and Russia share a concern the conflicts in the country might spread and affect other nations in the region.

Zvi Magen, a former Israeli Ambassador to Russia and currently at the Institute for National Security Studies at Tel Aviv University, said that the Iran issue and the situation in Syria will be among the topics to be discussed -- but they won't be the only ones.

"There are, of course, bilateral interests on an economic and a strategic level, because Russia is looking for new partners in the area. So this topic will also be discussed together with the Iranian and Syrian issues," Magen said.

He added that the brevity of Putin's visit isn't indicative of its importance. The visit is aimed at showing that Russia is still an important global power, and Putin wants to show his interest in Israel.

One of the economic issues that is expected to be discussed during the meeting is Russia's interest in Israel's recent funding of natural gas under the Mediterranean Sea.

Russia has expressed interest in helping with the development of Israeli gas fields of Leviathan and Tamar and to sell the gas to a third party, calling for a closer collaboration between the two countries in gas exploration.

In addition, Russia is also interested in establishing closer ties with Israel's defense industries. In the last two years Russia has purchased 12 drones from different Israeli companies.

http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90777/78549 93.html

## New mum bids to be Iceland's president

AAP June 30, 2012 12:17PM

Icelanders vote on Saturday in a presidential election, with a 37-year-old mother with a newborn challenging the incumbent Olafur Ragnar Grimsson as he seeks a fifth straight term

**ICELAND'S** Thora Arnorsdottir, a respected journalist with no political affiliation who interrupted her campaign briefly in May to give birth to her third child, has run a campaign calling for change after Grimsson's 16 years in power.

She led in the polls initially, after Grimsson, 69, said he would not stand for re-election.

But after a petition gathered more than 30,000 signatures -- about a tenth of the population -- urging him to reconsider, he announced in March that he

would stand after all, and has since then led in the public opinion.

Two surveys published in the final days of the campaign showed him coasting to an easy victory, with one giving him 57 per cent voter support over Arnorsdottir's 30.8 per cent.



#### **Presidential Candidate Thora Arnorsdottir - AFP**

"The gap between Olafur and Thora in this poll is very wide and you could say it is insurmountable," Gunnar Helgi Kristinsson, political science professor at the University of Iceland, told daily Frettabladid.

Arnorsdottir, a striking blonde with piercing blue eyes, made a solid journalistic reputation reporting on Iceland's deep financial and economic crisis after all of its major banks collapsed in 2008.

She has lamented the now rapidly recovering country has not done enough to learn from its mistakes, and that is what prompted her to be a candidate.

"I think we have all felt a strong need for a change in this country," she told the Reykjavik Grapevine.

Iceland has gone through deep soul-searching after the crisis, with many clamouring for a new generation of politicians to clean out the ranks.

Arnorsdottir is seen as an honest candidate and a fresh face after Iceland's crisis years.

The candidate, who describes herself as a consensus builder, has acknowledged that the role of president is largely ceremonial, but said the position "has a great power of influence."

She is however up against tough competition from the silver-haired Grimsson, where her political inexperience may work against her.

Grimsson, a socialist, is hugely popular for his refusal, twice, to sign a bill to use taxpayer money to compensate Britain and the Netherlands over the 2008 collapse of online bank Icesave.

He has been an unusually political figure during his 16 years in power, earning him both praise and criticism.

He is a strong supporter of China, despite the government's criticism of its human rights record, and is strongly opposed to Iceland joining the European Union for fear the country would lose its sovereignty.

Iceland applied to join the bloc in 2009 after the economic crisis, and is currently in the midst of membership negotiations with Brussels.

A total of 235,784 Icelanders are eligible to vote on Saturday. Polling booths open at 1900 AEST and close at 2200 GMT (0800 AEST Sunday) and the first results are expected about an hour later.

http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/new-mum-bids-to-be-icelands-president/story-e6frf7lf-1226412992445

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#### Iceland president wins record fifth term By Haukur Holm | AFP - Sun, Jul 1, 2012

Iceland's President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson is set for a record fifth term in office after facing down a challenge from a well-known television reporter who had a new baby on the campaign trail.

With 100 percent of votes counted from Saturday's poll, the socialist Grimsson won 52.78 percent, while his main rival Thora Arnorsdottir came in second with 33.16 percent.

Grimsson, a 69-year-old former university professor, has held the largely ceremonial post since 1996 but has courted controversy for taking a more political approach to the role.

His challenger, a political novice, had been seen as a fresh face at a time when many Icelanders clamoured for a new breed of politicians following the country's devastating economic crash in 2008.

"This has been a valuable experience. Now I will take a holiday, attend to my new daughter and the other children and go on maternity leave and think how I can put this experience to use," Arnorsdottir told public broadcaster RUV.

The 37-year-old television reporter, who had been leading in the opinion polls before Grimsson decided to

run again, interrupted her campaign for a week in May to give birth to her third child.

"To get more than one-third (of votes), I'm overwhelmed. Of course I hoped to win," the striking blonde said, adding she had no plans to run again in four years: "This is something you only do once in a lifetime."

A pioneer in women's rights, the country is home to the world's first democratically elected woman head of state, Vigdis Finnbogadottir, and current Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir, who is an openly gay woman.

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http://news.yahoo.com/mum-challengesicelands-president-election-045657658.html

## Holocaust survivor pageant divides opinion in Israel

Fourteen women who survived the horrors of World War Two have paraded in an unusual beauty pageant, vying to for the honour of being crowned Israel's first "Miss Holocaust Survivor".

29 June 2012





Contestants stand on stage after the announcment of the winner of the Miss Holocaust Survivor pageant in Haifa, Israel Photo: EPA

The youngest contestant was aged 74 and the oldest 97. Billed by organizers as a celebration of life, the event stirred controversy. In a country where millions have been touched by the Holocaust, many argued that judging aging women who had suffered so much on physical appearance was inappropriate, and even offensive.

"It sounds totally macabre to me," said Colette Avital, chairman of Israel's leading Holocaust survivors' umbrella group. "I am in favor of enriching lives, but a one-time pageant masquerading [survivors] with beautiful clothes is not what is going to make their lives more meaningful."

Pageant organizer Shimon Sabag rejected the criticism, saying the winners were chosen based on their personal stories of survival and rebuilding their lives after the war, and physical beauty was only a tiny part of the competition.

"They feel good together. They are having a good time and laughing in the rehearsals," said Sabag, director of Yad Ezer L'Haver, or Helping Hand, which assists needy Holocaust survivors and organized the pageant.

"The fact that so many wanted to participate proves that it's a good idea."

Nearly 300 women from across Israel registered for the competition and contestants were whittled down to the 14 finalists who appeared on Thursday.

The contest, part of Helping Hand's annual "cultural" night, included a lavish dinner and music at a Haifa reception hall. Some 600 people attended, including two Cabinet ministers, Moshe Kahlon and Yossi Peled, himself a Holocaust survivor.

The women, ranging in age from 74 to 97, clearly enjoyed themselves. Wearing black dresses, earrings and necklaces, and sporting blue-and-white numbered sashes, they grinned and waved as they were introduced to the adoring audience. Music played as the contestants walked along a red carpet, introduced themselves and described their memories of World War

"I have the privilege to show the world that Hitler wanted to exterminate us and we are alive. We are also enjoying life. Thank God it's that way," said Esther Libber, a 74-year-old runner-up who fled her home in Poland as a child, hid in a forest and was rescued by a Polish woman. She said she lost her entire immediate family

A four-judge panel consisting of three former beauty queens and a geriatric psychiatrist who specializes in treating Holocaust survivors chose the winner. Hava Hershkovitz, a soon-to-be 79-year-old, was banished from her home in Romania in 1941 and sent to a detention camp in the Soviet Union for three years. Today, she lives in an assisted living home run by Helping Hand.

"This place is full of survivors. It puts us at the center of attention so people will care. It's not easy at this age to be in a beauty contest, but we're all doing it to show that we're still here," the silver-haired Hershkovitz said. Wearing a glittering tiara, she was joined by her granddaughter, Keren Hazan. "I'm very proud of her because she's the most beautiful woman in the room tonight," Hazan said.

In addition to the contestants' accounts of surviving Nazi ghettos and concentration camps, their later contributions to their communities were also considered, Sabag said. Physical appearance was maybe "10 percent" of the criteria, he said, though a cosmetics company was recruited to help the women dress up for the occasion.

"We always tell them to dress well and look good. To think positive and to take care of themselves," Sabag said. "Always look at life with a smile and continue to live."

The thought that physical appearance could even remotely be a factor rubbed some the wrong way. Avital, of the Holocaust survivors' umbrella group, criticized the cosmetics company, saying it was using Holocaust survivors in a cheap marketing stunt to promote their products.

"Why use a beauty contest to show that these people survived and that they're brave?" wondered Lili Haber, a daughter of Holocaust survivors who heads an Israeli organization that assists survivors from Poland. "I think it's awful. I think it's something a decent person shouldn't even think about."

The Holocaust, in which Nazi Germany oversaw the systematic slaughter of 6 million European Jews, plays a unique role in Israeli society. The country gained independence in the wake of the Holocaust, serving as a refuge for hundreds of thousands of people who survived the genocide.

Nearly 200,000 aging survivors live in Israel today, and the country's annual Holocaust Day is one of the most solemn occasions on the calendar. Restaurants and cinemas close, and the country comes to a standstill as sirens wail for two minutes. Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, frequently make references to the Holocaust when discussing the threat they believe a nuclear-armed Iran would pose to the Jewish state.

Thursday's contest was among the many unconventional beauty pageants that have sprouted up over the years. The war-torn countries of Angola and Cambodia have held "Miss Landmine" contests for survivors of land mine explosions, Star Trek fans enjoy the "Miss Klingon Empire" contest in Atlanta, and plussized women in Thailand compete for the honor of "Miss Jumbo Queen." There are also a senior citizens' pageants in the U.S.

Gal Mor, editor of the popular Israeli blog "Holes in the Net," said Thursday's pageant was well-intentioned but misquided.

"Why should a decayed, competitive institution that emphasizes women's appearance be used as inspiration, instead of allowing them to tell their story without gimmicks?" he wrote. "This is one step short of 'Survivor-Holocaust' or 'Big Brother Auschwitz.' It leaves a bad taste. Holocaust survivors should be above all this."

Source: AP

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/israel/9364358/Holocaust-survivor-pageant-divides-opinion-in-Israel.html